15 UM students to participate in French cultural exchange program

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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MISSOULA--

A total of 15 students from the University of Montana in Missoula will participate fall quarter in the 10-week cultural exchange program in France known as the French Farm Program. Dr. Roman I. Zylawy, associate professor of foreign languages at UM, will accompany the students while they are overseas.

The students will live with French families in towns and villages within a 20-mile radius of Beaune, in the province of Burgundy, France. They will assist in the Burgundy grape harvest and also participate in wine making after the harvest is in.

The UM students who will participate in the program were chosen earlier in the year by the UM French faculty. Not all are French majors, but all must have at least five quarters of French in addition to a special preparatory course. The UM students participating in the French Farm Program this fall are: Maureen Smith McKee, Andrea Elizabeth Rollins and Kurt A. Winegardner, Billings; Theresa Marie Auker, Glendive; Charles R. Craigie and Leslie Marie Mitchell, Great Falls; Kathi Lynn Jenni, Lewistown; Gayle Marie Ricci, Livingston; Mary Jill Zignego, Miles City; Linda Diane Berkley, Mary Thea Cox and Robert C. Steiner, Missoula; M. Kathleen Mahnke, Silver Gate; Patricia Ann Breen, Des Plaines, Ill.; and Laurie Jean Padden, Wyandotte, Mich.

Six students from France, who will stay with various Montana ranchers under the exchange program, are expected to arrive in Montana within several weeks.

Zylawy, his wife and the couple's five children will leave for France from New York City Sept. 1 to enable Zylawy to make final arrangements with French families for the UM students' visit. The Montana students will leave for France from Calgary, Alta., Sept. 8 and will meet Zylawy at the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris two days later. The
15 UM STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE--page 2
group will visit museums and attend plays until Sept. 19 in Paris and will then go to
Beaune to meet with host families.

The French Farm Program was started in 1973 by Asst. Prof. Robert Brock of the UM
foreign languages department. It is designed to give UM students the opportunity to learn
about daily life in France by living with French families.

Brock said the French families are interested in having the UM students stay with them
because they want the occupational help and the experience of getting to know what Americans
are like.

Zylawy said the UM students will earn a full quarter's credit for participating in the
cultural exchange program in France. The students completed most of their preliminary
course work this summer at UM. Student participants will be required to keep a journal in
French of their daily work activities. The only other school-related activity will be a
weekly excursion to various points of interest near Beaune, such as the Cathedral Vezelay
and a distillery.

Students will participate in the grape harvest and wine making for about two months,
ending in mid-November. After they are finished with work they will be free to travel in
Europe for about a month before returning home for Christmas.